



Tom Lantos

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER**

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Perseverance is Key to Protecting Human Rights Worldwide, Lantos Says

Washington, DC – *Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA), the ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee and co-founder and co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, made the following statement on the commemoration of Human Rights Day tomorrow, December 10:*

“The protection of human rights is a universal value that deserves not just a single day of commemoration, but a firm commitment year-round. The United Nations has a proud tradition of working on behalf of the world’s people to prevent discrimination and to facilitate the understanding of human rights. As a leading member of the U.N., the United States has made human rights a central part of our international agenda, from elections monitoring to fighting for religious freedom. In leading the global effort to defeat terrorism, we must not waver in our dedication to stopping discrimination, advocating on behalf of laborers, ensuring freedom of expression and spreading democratic practices around the globe. This dedication is our only hope for safeguarding the future of humankind.”

Lantos is the only Holocaust survivor ever to serve in the U.S. Congress. He co-founded the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in 1983. Lantos has received numerous honors for his work in this area, including the 2001 Louis B. Sohn Award of the United Nations Association for Human Rights, presented on Human Rights Day in 2001.

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